

The appointment of a lady doctor in the Changanachery hospital will be considered when the Women's Medical Service is extended and when more women doctors are appointed.

The license fees are levied on boats, fishing nets, etc., in the interests of the fishermen themselves and in order to stop indiscriminate fishing which was depleting fisheries in backwaters and rivers. This license fee is levied under the Fisheries Regulation and is considered one of the ways to conserve the fishing resources.

I have already answered several representations about the registration of *vallams* and have explained that a concession has been granted to the owners by changing the annual registration to one single initial registration.

121. Needs of the Changanachery town.

MR. A. M. JOSEPH (*Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that Changanachery was one of the most important commercial and educational centres in the State. There were several important needs but the member would confine his attention to only six of the most important among them. The first of these was the early construction of the travellers' bungalow in the old fort and the transfer of the existing travellers' bungalow and its site to the Municipality, free of cost, for being used as a public recreation ground which was a desideratum. As a result of repeated representations, the Government sanctioned the transfer. But, subsequently, on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer the order of transfer was suspended till accommodation was available for the stay of touring officers. The Government since decided to sell the site in auction as it was unsuitable for a recreation ground. The Municipality has requested the Government to reconsider their order. This request should be complied with at an early date by reviving their original order.

The next urgent need was the widening and metalling of the Changanachery-Vazhur road between the Changanachery motor junction and the market landing and the construction of masonry drains on its sides. The traffic on this road was so heavy and the road so narrow that carts and buses going in opposite directions could not freely pass one another. The Government had realised the condition of the road and that was why the Commissioner of Police prohibited the plying of buses on this portion of the road. The total length would only be 7 furlongs and the Government have already accorded administrative sanction for the work. It should be commenced immediately.

The Government have accorded permission to all major and even to some of the minor Municipal Councils to collect tolls within their municipal limits. The privilege was denied to the Changanachery Municipal Council which was maintaining all the minor roads within its jurisdiction. The town was thickly populated and the traffic was heavy. The funds of the Council were limited and insufficient to meet even the most pressing sanitary works and the Government grant too had been stopped. The levy of a municipal toll would provide funds for municipal activities. If this could not be permitted, the

Tiruvalla and Kottayam Municipalities might be asked to pay a reasonable share of the tolls collected by them to the Changanachery Municipality. There was no toll on the Changanachery-Vazhur road which bore a heavy traffic. The toll levied on the Kottayam-Kumili road was exclusively on vehicles going to Kottayam from the eastern hills while the vehicles that resorted to Changanachery were from Mallappalli, Manimala, Karukachal and other places. These were numerous and paid no toll. The opening of a tollgate at the eastern end of the town on this road would be equitable and might be sanctioned.

The Changanachery fish market was one of the biggest fish markets in Southern India and the number of people that resorted to it on every market day was large. Numerous boats and canoes frequented the canal close by on the market days; but the canal was so narrow and shallow that it could not admit even half the number of boats that sought entrance. This canal should therefore be widened and deepened. The Government had already promised to take up this question early. This promise should be redeemed.

The next urgent need was the provision of a crane and a shed at the market landing. This had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly and at the 24th session, the Dewan said that an estimate for the work would be called for. The work should be taken up without further delay.

The member's next request was for the appointment of a lady doctor at the Changanachery hospital. It was hardly necessary for him to advance arguments for this request and to describe the hardship and the sufferings the women especially those in expectancy were subject to on account of the absence of a lady doctor.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph, it is hoped to provide funds in next year's budget for constructing a travellers' bungalow at Changanachery; and after that has been constructed, the question of transferring the site of the present bungalow to the Municipality will be considered.

An estimate for nearly Rs. 8,000 for widening the Changanachery-Vazhur road is awaiting execution for want of funds.

The maintenance of roads within municipal limits has been retransferred to the Public Works Department; and the whole question of granting a share of the tolls to Municipalities should, as I have already told several members, lie over till the general question of maintenance of roads in municipal areas is decided.

The Chief Engineer has been asked to take up the work of deepening and widening the Fish Market canal next year, if funds are available.

He will also report on the question of providing a crane and a shed at the market landing.

122. Needs of the Minachil taluk.

MR. V. K. KESAVA PILLAI (*Minachil taluk, Group I*) said that the Government were not making adequate provision for public